

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Provided are methods, data processing systems and  
computer programs enabling selection of an appropriate  
message filtering policy for inter-broker communications  
within a message broker network. The policy determines  
whether a broker should forward messages to all its  
neighbour brokers ('broadcast') or should filter messages  
based on subscription information for connected brokers  
and, if filtering, what filtering rules to implement and  
10 when. Filtering rules may differentiate between different  
groups of message topics. The filtering policy selected  
may differ for different links within a single broker or  
multi-broker network and, additionally or alternatively,  
15 the communication strategy for the network or for  
specific links within the network may be changed  
according to current network use characteristics.